

## 2022 Annual Report of Allentown Environmental Advisory Council

### **ACTIVITY**

In 2022 the Allentown Environmental Advisory Council developed and implemented the following goals and actions as outlined below. In addition, the EAC developed a re-fined set of goals for the Council to drive outcomes over 2023 and 2024. They are:

- By end of 2023 complete a comprehensive energy audit for all City assets (made recommendation to admin and council)
- By end of 2023 collect data on residential energy use and residences with high energy burden (have a 2023 intern to focus on this)
- By end of 2022 design a job description sustainability officer within the Mayor's office.(90% completed as of 11.11.2022)
- By end of 2023 create a task force to select and prioritize recommendations for city assets from the energy audit considering all grant opportunities and alternative financing mechanisms
- By end of 2024 create a publicly available energy savings implementation plan for city assets with targets and interim milestones
- By end of 2024 establish policies and programs to reduce energy use at residences with high energy burden
- By end of 2023 complete a climate vulnerability assessment with broad stakeholder input
- Develop a Climate Action Plan Within 12 months of LVPC's completion of the regional climate action plan
- By end of 2023 hire a sustainability officer.

#### **1. Drive Greater Transparency and Accountability on Environmental Matters:**

- Provided recommendations on environmental sustainability metrics for a City dashboard. The recommended dashboard metrics are posted on the EAC's webpage on the City's website
- Led the City's CDP disclosures which is an important vehicle to make available to the public significant data with respect to the City's greenhouse gas emissions and climate actions. The disclosures are posted on the EAC's webpage on the City's website

#### **2. Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Allentown**

- Worked closely with Promise Neighborhoods Lehigh Valley (PNLV) in developing an AmeriCorps-compliant pilot program that would include environmental sustainability initiatives within the City of Allentown for Corps members to provide service and receive job skills training.
- Submitted a comprehensive report and recommendations to the City to address energy equity issues in the City of Allentown. The report and recommendations are posted on EAC's webpage on the City's website
- Submitted an application for technical assistance from ACEEE to help the City to develop additional programs to address energy equity in the City

#### **3. Plan for a Sustainable and Resilient Allentown**

- Provided recommendations to the City on investing in continued reduction of its energy costs and associated taxpayer burden through energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that take advantage of Pennsylvania's Guaranteed Energy Savings Act as well as state and federal funding and potential public-private type partnerships. The recommendations included a full step-by-step outline of how the city could proceed with this work, including having a FREE energy audit conducted by Siemens Energy. The recommendations are posted on EAC's webpage on the City's website

#### **4. Improve Community Health Outcomes**

- Helped to promote community event in Allentown focused on raising awareness regarding lead contamination in homes

#### **5. Increase Environmental Stewardship**

- Supported the City's litter education as part of the Summer in the Parks program by providing input and instruction through a Muhlenberg student intern who was retained and guided by the AEAC
- Provided literature and children's activities in support of the City's earth day program
- Reviewed communications regarding environmental permits and other notices to the City from environmental agencies
- Submitted proposal to City to install a solar kiln at its yard waste facility

## **BUDGET**

In 2022 the AEAC was allocated a budget of \$5000. The AEAC proposed to use that money to purchase materials necessary to pilot the solar kiln project at the City's yard waste facility. However, as of this date the City has not yet completed its evaluation of the feasibility of the project. The money has, therefore, not yet been spent. The AEAC expects that a budget of \$5000 each year would be appropriate for the AEAC to fulfill its purpose of supporting community environmental projects such as this one.